

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell and Mabel Hubbard Bell, August 18, 1888, with transcript

Letter from Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell, father and mother of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, to Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell. 88 Fayette St., West Washington, D. C. Wednesday August 18, 88 My dear Alec,

Just a line to say how truly we sympathise with you and dear Mabel in what has happened. As she is going on well we perhaps ought not to sorrow — for, if the baby had lived — considering also the delicate state in which Mabel has so long been — might have been something otherwise than right about the child. One of my mother's cousins had been born prematurely, and he lived to be seventeen years old, but was always far behind other boys, and wanting in intellect. Mary tells me you have nice comfortable apartments and good attendance, so that with careful nursing, we hope there can be no fear of Mabel soon being strong again. Mary tells me the cove is a beautifully wild picturesque place with delightfully fresh air. She seems to have been enjoying it greatly. So dear little Elsie has begun to use her needle. Grandpapa is quite proud of her piece of fancy work.

The weather here at present is delightfully cool and bracing. No news — but unfavorable news of the President I am sorry to say. I have written to Carrie asking her to join Aunt Ellen in a visit to us next month. I hope she will, for I fear she is very much pulled down by heat and fatigue-during the busy harvest time just over.

Love to you and dear Mabel — and kisses to the little ones, from your affectionate mother
E.G. Bell

My dear Al and May,

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I need not say how sorry we are for your disappointment, but you cannot grieve “as those who have no hope”. All is for the best. I trust that dear May will soon be strong again. Tell sweet Elsie how much I am 2 pleased with her remembrance. The pattern of the work, however, looks like the ominous outline of a tomb for baby Edward.

Mysterious Comet! Showing here its face
Some few short hours, then darkling into space.
Whence come, and whither gone, we know not yet;
But doubtless, wisely orb'd, thus soon
to set.

From what ? Tainter says, we may expect to see you soon.

With much love to all

Your affectionate father Alec Melville Bell